

## Homework Assignment.

**Complete this exercise at home. This is the first step to breeding success. The answers to many of the questions you may have can be found in the articles on the website [www.breedingbetterdogs.com](http://www.breedingbetterdogs.com)**

**Planning a next breeding? Complete questions a-l before you make the decision to breed. This exercise will help you evaluate your plan.**

**For the next bitch you plan to breed. This is a self score effort on your part. Score yourself based on what you know about this breeding.**

### The brood bitch.

- Her littermates, how many \_\_ males \_\_ female \_\_ If this is not known ..... - 5 pts
- Her conformation – Complete a Stick Dog Pedigree on this bitch. How much missing information was there in three generations? This is a good indicator of what you know about her. .... + 15 pts
- Her health history – Complete a Symbols Pedigree on the bitch to be bred. If completed, did you miss anything about her littermates (see "a" above)..... + 15 pts

d. List her strengths based on the breed standard. Use the Stick Dog Figure colors as your measure.

Maximum + 25 pts

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e. List her weaknesses. These are the areas of conformation you would like to improve. Again this is based on the breed standard and how you colored her stick figure. Maximum + 10 pts

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This bitch \_\_ linebred + 10 pts \_\_ inbred + 10 pts \_\_ outcrossed – 5 pts .....=\_\_\_\_ pts

The Stud dog you are considering for the bitch above

- His littermates, how many \_\_ males \_\_ female \_\_ If this is not known ..... - 5 pts
- His conformation – Complete a Stick Dog Pedigree on this dog. How much missing information was there in three generations? This is a good indicator of what you know about him. .... + 15 pts
- His health history – Complete a Symbols Pedigree on the dog to be used. If completed, did you miss anything about his littermates (see "a" above)..... + 15 pts

i. List his strengths based on the breed standard. Use the Stick Dog Figure colors as your measure.

Maximum + 25 pts

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j. List his weaknesses. These are the areas of conformation you would like to improve. Again this is based on the breed standard and how you colored his stick figure. Maximum + 10 pts

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k. This stud is: \_\_\_ linebred + 10 pts \_\_\_ inbred + 10 pts \_\_\_ outcrossed – 5 pts  
Read the material about Brackett below \*

l. Total the points for this breeding. If you total is less than 100 points you do not have enough information. This is a good time to remind yourself that more work is needed.

NOTE:

To better prepare you to breed any dog or bitch you need to do the proper homework. That includes pedigree analysis. Go to [www.breedingbetterdogs.com](http://www.breedingbetterdogs.com) \* Click on articles, read “Selecting Sires”, “Bracket's Formula”.

### **Choosing the Best Puppy \*\***

It is not too early to begin thinking about pups and what you hope to produce. Keeping a good female for the next breeding or for the show ring is important. Remember that over 50% of the top dogs in most breeds are not owned by their breeders. This is because they did not develop the skills needed to recognize and select the best pups when they were still with their littermates. Developing these skills is critical to a success. \*\* For a more complete discussion of this subject click on “video” to see “Choosing the Best Puppy” video.

The method recommended for choosing the best pups is called "From the Bottom Up"

This means finding the worst pup first. It is the easiest to notice and is the one furthest from the breed standard. You must consider:

- a. Age at time of evaluation – begin each week starting at 6 weeks
- b. Frequency of evaluations – weekly
- c. Place – use unfamiliar places to the pups
- d. Single evaluations. Do not evaluate them together
- e. Your rank and evaluation of each pup must be based on the breed standard

### **Bracket's Formula**

Bracket was able to breed over 90 champions in a short period of time. He did this by keeping detailed records and paying attention to what he saw in his pups. He noticed that certain sires worked better than others. He used a formula which was his strategy. It helped him to concentrate the genes of one very dog on both sides of the pedigree. In each breeding he tried to use pedigrees where one very good dog appeared more than once. A very good dog was one that had produced several litters and what he saw he liked. Read the full text of the article. Save it in your three ring binder.

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